

In the Claims

Please cancel pending Claims 2-12, and 16 and enter new Claims 28-32. Claims 1, 14-15 and 25 were previously canceled. Claims 13, 17-24 and 26-32 are currently pending.

1. (Previously Cancelled)

2-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for use in repairing a leak in a plastic pipe, the apparatus comprising:

a first portion having a first pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a second pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a first contact surface, and a second contact surface; and

a second portion having a first pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a second pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a first contact surface, and a second contact surface wherein the first portion and the second portion are operable to encapsulate the leak, the first pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to couple around the pipe to form a first seal, the second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to couple around the pipe to form a second seal, the first contact surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to sealably couple with one another, and the second contact surfaces of the first and second portions are operable

to sealably couple with one another;
a sealable vent coupled to the apparatus and in
communication with the leak in the plastic pipe when
the first and second portions are positioned to
encapsulate the plastic pipe;
a first terminal attached to the first portion;
a second terminal electrically coupleable to the first
terminal; and
a communication line positioned to electrically couple the
first and second portions when the first and second
portions are positioned for engagement such that when
electricity is applied to the first and second
terminals, the electricity is communicated to energize
the electrofusion surfaces of the first and second
portions.

14-15. (Previously Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the first and second
contact surfaces of the first portion are further provided with
electrofusion elements operable to sealably couple the first
contact surfaces of the first and second portions to one another
and operable to sealably couple the second contact surfaces of
the first and second portions to one another.

18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the first and second contact surfaces of the first and second portions are further provided with electrofusion elements operable to sealably couple the first contact surfaces of the first and second portions to one another and operable to sealably couple the second contact surfaces of the first and second portions to one another.

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the apparatus further includes a fastener operable to secure the first and second portions to one another.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first and second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces and the first and second contact surfaces of the first portion define a sidewall providing a cavity within the first portion such that the cavity communicates with a leak portion of the plastic pipe.

21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the first portion is provided with a passageway defining an opening extending therethrough the first portion, the passageway in communication with the cavity of the first portion.

22. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the the first and second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces and the first and second contact surfaces of the second portion define a sidewall providing a cavity within the second portion such that the cavity communicates with a leak portion of the plastic pipe.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the plastic pipe is a polyethylene pipe.

24. (Twice Amended) A method for sealing a leak in a plastic pipe comprising:

providing an apparatus comprising:

a first portion having a first pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a second pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a first contact surface, and a second contact surface, a second portion having a first pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a second pipe engaging electrofusion surface, a first contact surface, and a second contact surface wherein the first portion and the second portion are operable to encapsulate the leak, the first pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to couple around the pipe to form a first seal, the second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to couple around the pipe to form a second seal, the first contact surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to sealably couple with one another, and the second contact surfaces of the first and second portions are operable to sealably couple with one another,

a sealable vent coupled to the apparatus and in communication with the leak in the plastic pipe when the first and second portions are positioned to encapsulate the plastic pipe,

a first terminal attached to the first portion,

a second terminal electrically coupleable to the first terminal,
a communication line positioned to electrically couple the first and second portions when the first and second portions are positioned for engagement such that when electricity is applied to the first and second terminals, the electricity is communicated to energize the electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions; and
encapsulating the leak in the plastic pipe with the a first portion and a second portion;
electrofusing the first portion and the second portion together at the first contact surfaces;
electrofusing the first portion and the second portion together at the second contact surfaces;
electrofusing the first and second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions; and
electrofusing the second pipe engaging electrofusion surfaces of the first and second portions.

25. (Previously Cancelled)

26. (Previously Amended) The method as defined by claim 24 wherein the apparatus further includes a fastener on at least one of the first and second portions operable to secure the first portion to the second portion, and wherein the method further includes fastening the fastener to secure the first portion to the second portion about the plastic pipe.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the apparatus further includes an opening in at least one of the first and second portions communicating with the leak in the plastic pipe, and wherein the method further comprises:

testing the leak in the plastic pipe via the opening in the apparatus; and
sealably covering the opening in the apparatus.

28. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, further comprising a repair member provided on the plastic pipe to reduce the leak, and wherein the first and second portions are sized to couple around the plastic pipe so as to encapsulate the repair member and the plastic pipe.

29. (New) The apparatus of Claim 28, wherein the repair member is further defined as a clamp.

30. (New) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein the repair member is further defined as a electrofusion patch.

31. (New) The method of Claim 24, further comprising:
sealing the sealable vent.

32. (New) The method of Claim 31, further comprising:
providing a repair member on the plastic pipe to reduce the
leak, wherein the first and second portions are sized
to couple around the plastic pipe so as to encapsulate
the repair member and the plastic pipe; and
testing the leak in the plastic pipe via the sealable vent.